

REMARKS

Applicants note the comments regarding priority. Applicants have complied with 35 U.S.C. §120 and 37 C.F.R. §1.78 by making reference to these prior applications on lines 9-11 of page 1 and specifically stating that the present application is a continuation-in-part of these applications.

Applicants have amended the specification as required.

Applicants note the objection to the drawings. Attached is a new Figure 19 in which "Fig. 14" has been replaced with "614", identified in the specification as container scanning equipment. Also, the very small type "Scanner Station" has been omitted.

Claim 77 was objected to. It has been amended to overcome this objection.

Claims 74-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would know what is a CBW type "boom" crane. A CBW crane is a jib or boom crane which luffs up and down and rotates. The difference between a CBW "boom" crane versus a CBW type "boom" crane is that the CBW "boom" crane is specific brand of crane and the CBW type "boom" crane could be made by a different company, but would still luff and rotate. Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would realize this. However, to simplify issues, the claims have been amended to replace the term "CBW type "boom" crane" with "rotating, luffing boom crane" (support for this change can be seen in Figure 18, where CBW type "boom" crane 610 is shown luffing, and Figure 19, where CBW type "boom" crane 610 is shown rotating.

Claims 74, 75, and 78-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amoss, Jr. (US2002/0071743 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The present invention as claimed provides for efficient container handling even when containers are going to many different locations, and some of those locations are getting a relatively small number of containers. The efficiency made possible by the present invention is not matched by any reference of record or combination of references of records.

Amoss, Jr. does not mention rotating, luffing boom cranes mounted on separate gantry frames with hatch storage, as claimed in claim 74. No reference of record suggests that one should include rotating, luffing boom cranes mounted on separate gantry frames with hatch

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storage with the system of Amoss, Jr. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable.

Claims 74, 75, and 77-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lovell (1,033,602) in view of McDowell (3,198,353). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

No reference of record suggests that one should include rotating, luffing boom cranes mounted on separate gantry frames with hatch storage in a system such as that claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable.

Claim 76 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lovell in view of McDowell, as applied to claim 74, and further in view of Henderson (4,786,229).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

No reference of record suggests that one should include rotating, luffing boom cranes mounted on separate gantry frames with hatch storage in a system such as that claimed. Further, there is no motivation to add the scanner of Henderson to a system such as one might construct by combining features of Lovell and McDowell. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable.

Applicants respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants respectfully petition the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Enclosed is our Check No. 9383 in the amount of \$510.00. However, if this amount is insufficient, please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 16 June 2005.



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